

Geyer

Words: Heinrich von Reder 1885 / Music: Fritz Sotke 1919
English translation: James Prescott 1986

Geyer's black-clad gang are we, heia oho,
And we will wipe out tyranny, heia oho.

CHORUS

Pikemen ho! Forward go!
On the cloister roof let the red cock crow! (repeat both lines)

Our Lord in Heaven, to you we pray, kyrieleis,
That we those Papish priests might slay, kyrieleis.

When Adam delvèd, and Eve span, kyrieleis,
Who was then the gentleman? kyrieleis.

No more Bishop, Monk, or Lord, heia oho,
We'll live our lives by Holy Word, heia oho.

Florian Geyer leads us on, outlawed and banned,
A peasant's boot for his pennon, but his armour is grand.

He brought to Weinberg fire and smoke, heia oho,
We gave to many their death stroke, heia oho.

The nobles' daughters, mark them well, heia oho,
We'll send to the very depths of Hell, heia oho.

Beaten, we sneak home by night, heia oho,
Our sons will wage a better fight, heia oho.

EXTRA FINAL CHORUS

Spieß voran, drauf und dran,
Setzt aufs Klosterdach den roten Hahn! (repeat both lines)

About the German Peasant's War of 1525
Sir Florian Geyer was one of the leaders
The German chorus idiom means "set fire to the cloister"
Pronounce Spieß as "shpeace".
Not specifically Protestant vs Catholic; Martin Luther
condemned it
Academics do not agree on causes, though anti-wealth and
anti-privilege was part of it